

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 10277 070200Z

11

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /028 W
----- 114846

R 062340Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5128

UNCLAS MEXICO 10277

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJ: PROPERTY OF US NATIONALS: DETENTION OF DC3 AIR-
CRAFT NUMBER N-37737

1. SUBJECT AIRCRAFT IS OWNED BY THE AIR TRANSPORT CORPORATION
OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE AC 713-237-9089.

2. EMBASSY FIRST HEARD OF AIRCRAFT'S DETENTION BY MEXICAN
AUTHORITIES ON DECEMBER 3, 1974, FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND
A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR. AL COWAN, PRESIDENT OF THE AIR
TRANSPORT CORPORATION. ACCORDING TO COWAN, THE AIRCRAFT
WAS ENROUTE FROM MACALLEN, TEXAS TO GUATEMALA WITH A LOAD
OF COLOR TELEVISION SETS AND STEREO RADIO EQUIPMENT.
COWAN STATED THAT IT WAS A LEGITIMATE SHIPMENT PROPERLY
INVOICED. FOR REAONS UNKNOWN TO MR. COWAN, THE AIRCRAFT
LANDED AT POZA RICA, STATE OF VERACRUZ, WHERE THE CREW
AND CARGO WERE SEIZED, ON DECEMBER 1, 1974.

3. CREW MEMBERS ARE MR. HAROLD MANGELS AND MR. WAYNE
SHELLENBERG. ACCORDING TO MANGELS HIS RIGHT ENGINE
WAS BURNING EXCESSIVE FUEL AND HE LANDED AT POZA
RICA TO SECURE MORE GASOLINE. MANGELS STATED THAT
THEY HAD NO DIFFICULTY AT THE AIRPORT UNTIL THE
MEXICAN ARMY STEPPED IN AND ARRESTED THEM. MANGELS
ALSO STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMY BEAT HIM AND
OTHERWISE MISTREATED HIM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 10277 070200Z

4. THE ABOVE FACTS WERE CHECKED WITH MR. JOE GUERRA OF

THE VICTOR GUERRA BONDING AGENCY AT MC ALLEN, TEXAS, TELEPHONE AC 512-585-2075, WHO WERE THE AGENTS FOR THE SHIPMENT. MR. GUERRA ALSO STATED THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS DESTINED DIRECTLY TO GUATEMALA CITY AND WAS TO BE SHIPPED IN BOND AND DELIVERED TO THE CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE IN GUATEMALA CITY.

5. MR. COWAN INFORMED EMBASSY ON DEC 4 THAT WOULD FLY TO TAMPICO AND CONTINUE TO POZA RICA BY CAR THE SAME DAY WITH DOCUMENTS TO ASSIST MANGELS AND SHELLENBERG IN CLEARING THEMSELVES OF CHARGES OF CONTRABAND AND ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO MEXICO. RESULTS OF THIS ENDEAVOR WILL BE REPORTED LATER. ARREST AND DETENTION REPORT ON MANGELS AND SHELLENBERG WILL FOLLOW.

6. ON DECEMBER 4, A CONSULAR OFFICER SPOKE WITH MR. H.K. HANKINS, SUPERVISOR OF THE FAA FLIGHT SERVICE STATION AT MACALLEN, TEXAS. MR. HANKINS STATED THAT THE PILOTS OF SUBJECT AIRCRAFT DID, ON DECEMBER 1, 1974, FILE A FLIGHT PLAN FROM MAC ALLEN TO POZA RICA. POZA RICA IS NOT A PORT OF ENTRY. THIS WOULD TEND TO NEGATE THE PILOT'S STORY THAT THEY LANDED AT POZA RICA ONLY TO OBTAIN FUEL.

7. MR. HANKINS EXPLAINED THAT THE PILOTS IN THIS CASE FILED WHAT IS KNOWN AS A "NO ARRIVAL FLIGHT PLAN". UNDER THIS SYSTEM AIRCRAFT ARE PERMITTED TO DEPART THE UNITED STATES HEADED SOUTH INTO MEXICO WITHOUT FILING A FLIGHT PLAN TO A PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO. THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS MERELY TO COMPLY WITH US. REGULATIONS ABOUT AIRCRAFT CROSSING THE ADIZ ZONE SURROUNDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE UNITED STATES. MR. HANKINS FURTHER STATED THAT THERE WAS NO US. REQUIREMENT THAT AIRCRAFT LEAVING THE UNITED STATES HEADING SOUTH INTO MEXICO FILE A FLIGHT PLAN TO AN INTERNATIONAL PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO. IF A "NO ARRIVAL" FLIGHT PLAN IS FILED, THE FAA FLIGHT SERVICE STATION MAKES NO EFFORT TO ADVISE THE MEXICANS OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT.

8. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF CASES OF US. GENERAL AVIATION AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN CONTRABAND ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO, THE EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT FAA REGULATIONS BE CHANGED TO REQUIRE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 10277 070200Z

ANY AIRCRAFT DEPARTING THE UNITED STATES WITH DESTINATION IN MEXICO BE REQUIRED TO FILE A FLIGHT PLAN TO AN INTERNATIONAL PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO AND THAT MEXICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES BE ADVISED OF ALL SUCH FLIGHTS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS WOULD BE A PRUDENT ACTION IN ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT CONTRABAND ACTIVITIES TO AND FROM MEXICO AND WOULD BE A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WELCOMED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

BRANDIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO10277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740355-0795
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741255/aaaaburk.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPERTY OF US NATIONALS: DETENTION OF DC3 AIR- CRAFT NUMBER N-37737
TAGS: CPRS, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005